

THE
PARENTS GIFT
TO THEIR
CHILDREN,

Being a Choice Collection of
GOD'S JUDGMENTS and MERCIES.

Together with the
Catechism and Ten Commandments
AT LARGE:

And near One Hundred Divine Questions and Answers,
With Prayers for every Day in the Week, for Morn-
ing and Evening.

Printed for the Benefit of the POOR.



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The Church Catechism.

Question. **W**hat is your Name?

Answer. N. or M.

Q. Who gave you this Name?

A. My Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptism, wherein I was made a Member of Christ, the Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Q. What did your Godfathers and Godmothers do for you?

A. They did promise and vow three Things in my Name: First, that I should renounce the Devil and all his Works; the Poms and Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh. Secondly, that I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith. And thirdly, that I should keep God's Holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the Days of my Life.

Q. Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe and do as they have promised for thee?

A. Yes verily, and by God's Help so I will? And I heartily thank our heavenly Father that he hath called me to the State of Salvation through Jesus Christ our Saviour; and I pray unto God to give me his Grace that I may continue in the same unto my Life's End.

Q. Rehearse the Articles of thy Belief.

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third Day he rose again from the dead, and



ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the Quick and the Dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Q. What dost thou chiefly learn in these Articles of thy Belief.

A. First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me and all the World. Secondly, in God the Son who hath redeemed me and all Mankind. And thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost who sanctified me and all the elect People of God.

Q. You said that your Godfathers and Godmothers did promise that you should keep God's Commandments, tell me how many there be.

A. Ten.

Q. Which be they?

A. **T**HE same which God spake in the twentieth Chapter of Exodus, saying, I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the Land of Egypt, and out of the House of Bondage.

I. Thou shalt have no other Gods but me.

II. Thou shalt not make to thy self any graven Image, nor the Likeness of any Thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Water under the Earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them; for I the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, who visit the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children unto the third and fourth Generation of them that hate me and shew Mercy unto Thousands to them that love me and keep my Commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain.

IV. Remember that thou keep Holy the Sabbath Day, six Days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do, but the seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: In it thou shalt do no Manner of Work, thou and thy Son and thy Daughter, thy Man-Servant and thy Maid-Servant, thy Cattle and the Stranger that is within thy Gates; for in six Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh Day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh Day, and hallowed it.

V. Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy Days may be long in the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt do no Murder.

VII. Thou shalt not commit Adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not Steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's House; thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife; nor his Servant, nor his Maid, nor his Ox, nor his Ass, nor any Thing that is his.

Lord have Mercy upon us, and write all these thy Laws in our Hearts, we beseech thee.

Q. What dost thou chiefly learn by these Commandments?

A. I learn two Things: My Duty towards God, and my Duty towards my Neighbour.

Q. What is thy Duty towards God?

A. My Duty towards God, is to believe in him, to fear him, to love him with all my Heart, with all my Mind, with all my Soul, and with all my Strength, to worship him, to give him Thanks, to put my whole Trust in him, to call upon him, to honour his most



holy Name and his Word, and to serve him truly all the Days of my Life.

Q. What is thy Duty towards thy Neighbour?

A. My Duty towards my Neighbour is to love him as myself, and to do unto all Men as I would they should do unto me; to love, honour, and succour my Father and Mother; to honour and obey the King and all that are put in Authority under him, to submit myself to all my Governors, Teachers, spiritual Pastors and Masters, to order myself lowly and reverently to all my Betters, to hurt no-body by Word or Deed, to be true and just in all my Dealings, to bear no Malice nor Hatred in my Heart, to keep my Hands from picking and stealing, and my Tongue from evil speaking, lying and slandering, to keep my Body in temperance, soberness and chastity, not to covet nor desire other Men's Goods, but to learn and labour truly to get mine own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me.

Q. Let me hear you say the Lord's Prayer.

A. Our Father, &c.

Q. What desirest thou of God in this Prayer?

A. I desire my Lord God our Heavenly Father, who is the giver of all goodness, to send his Grace unto me and to all People, that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him as we ought to do. And I pray unto God that he will send us all things that be needful both for our Souls and Bodies, and that he will be merciful unto us and forgive us our sins, and that it may please him to save and defend us from all danger ghostly and bodily; and that he will keep us from all sin and wickedness, and from our ghostly enemy, and from everlasting death. And this I trust he will do of his mercy and goodness through our Lord Jesus Christ: And therefore I say Amen: So be it.

Q. How many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

A. Two only generally necessary to Salvation, that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Q. What meanest thou by this Word Sacrament?

A. I mean an outward and visible Sign of an inward and spiritual Grace given unto us, and ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive the same, and as a Pledge to assure us thereof.

Q. How many Parts be in a Sacrament?

A. Two; The outward visible Sign, and the inward spiritual Grace.

Q. What is the outward visible Sign or Form of Baptism?

A. Water wherein the Person is baptised, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual Grace?

A. A Death unto Sin, and a new Birth unto Righteousness; for being by Nature born in Sin and the Children of Wrath, we are hereby made the Children of Grace.

Q. What is required of Persons to be Baptised?

A. Repentance, whereby they forsake Sin, and Faith, whereby they stedfastly believe the Promises of God made to them in that Sacrament.

Q. Why then are infants baptised when by reason of their tender Age they cannot perform them.

A. Because they promise them both by their Sureties which promise, when they come to age, themselves are bound to perform.

Q. Why was the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?

A. For the continual Remembrance of the Sacri-



fice of the Death of Christ, and of the Benefits which we receive thereby.

Q. What is the outward Part or Sign of the Lord's Supper?

A. Bread and Wine, which the Lord hath commanded to be received.

Q. What is the inward Part or Thing signified?

A. The Body and Blood of Christ which are verily and indeed taken and received by the Faithful in the Lord's Supper.

Q. What are the Benefits whereof we are Partakers thereby?

A. The strengthening and refreshing of our Souls, by the Body and Blood of Christ, as our Bodies are by the Bread and Wine.

Q. What is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper?

A. To examine themselves whether they repent them truly of their former Sins. Stedfastly purposing to lead a new life, and have a little Faith in God's Mercy through Christ; with a thankful Remembrance of his Death, and be in Charity with all Men.

QUESTIONS with Answers out of the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Q. **W**HO was the first Man? **A.** Adam.

Q. Who was the first Woman? **A.** Eve.

Q. Of what did God make Man? **A.** God made Man of the Dust of the Earth.

Q. Of what did God make the Woman? **A.** Of one of the Man's Ribs.

Q. Where did Adam and Eve dwell? **A.** In Paradise.

Q. What cast Adam and Eve out of Paradise? **A.** Sin.

Q. Who was the best Man? **A.** Jesus Christ.

A. The Man Jesus Christ.

Q. Who killed Abel?

A. Cain.

Q. Who was the first Martyr?

A. Abel.

Q. Who was the oldest Man?

A. Methusalem.

Q. Who was preserved in the Ark when God drowned the World?

A. Noah and his Wife, and his three Sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their three Wives.

Q. Who wrestled with God.

A. Jacob.

Q. What was his Name called after he wrestled with God?

A. Israel.

Q. How many Sons had Jacob.

A. Twelve, of whom came the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Q. What were their Names?

A. Reuben, Simeon and Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon. Joseph, Benjamin and Dan, Nephtali, Gad and Ashur; these were the Twelve Tribes.

Q. Who was the faithfulest Man that liv'd?

A. Abraham who is called the Father of the Faithful.

Q. Who was the meekest Man?

A. Moses.

Q. Who was the hard-heartedst Man?

A. Pharaoh.

Q. Who was the Man after God's own Heart?

A. David.

Q. Who was the wisest Man?

A. Solomon.

Q. Who was the strongest Man?

A. Sampson.

Q. Who wrote the Scriptures?

A. Holy Men of God inspired by the Holy Ghost.

Q. Who was the first Martyr after Christ?

A. Stephen.

Q. What death did he die?

A. He was stoned.

Q. Where was Christ born?

A. In Bethlehem.

Q. Who was the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. The Virgin Mary.

Q. Who was his reputed father?

A. Joseph.

Q. Who betrayed his Lord and Master?

A. Judas.

Q. What did he betray him for?

A. For the love of money, which is the root of all evil.

Q. What became of Judas after he betrayed Christ?

A. He went and hanged himself.

Q. Who denied Christ?

A. Peter.

Q. What became of Peter after he denied Christ?

A. He went and wept bitterly.

Q. Who condemn'd Christ?

A. Pontius Pilate.

Q. Who crucified Christ?

A. The bloody Jews.

Q. Out of whom did Christ cast out seven Devils?

A. Mary Magdalen.

Q. Who was the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ?

A. John.

Q. Who forsook Christ for the love of the World?

A. Demas.

Q. Who are the best Children?

A. They that fear God and keep his Commandments, and obey their Parents.

Q. Who are the worst Children?

A. They that lie and swear, steal, and break the Sabbath, and despise God and break his holy and righteous commandments.

Q. What becomes of the wicked when they die?

A. They are called into Hell, there to be tormented with the Devil and his Angels.

Prayers for every Day in the Week, both Morning and Evening.

A Prayer for Sunday Morning.

O Eternal God prepare my Heart to seek thee and accept this Morning Sacrifice though imperfect; I have too often sinned in absenting thy House, but more often and more grievously in frequenting it, by coming carelessly out of custom, and by unbecoming gestures, cold prayers, and heartless hearing. Lord let this day, a rest of my body, bring to remembrance the eternal rest of my soul; Let me come to thee with a sacrificed and humble soul, and with a wounded contrite spirit: And all I beg for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer for Sunday Night.

O God, the Father of Jesus our Lord, who are infinite in power, majesty, mercy and compassion; thou madest heaven and earth, and all things therein of nothing, in the space of six days, and on the seventh thou didst rest; and by thine own example thou didst consecrate the same, as a day of rest and recreation of thy people; and did afterwards renew it by the authority, practice and example of the Apostles, especially thy Son Jesus Christ, who perfected the work of our redemption by his resurrection. Accept, I beseech, these for his sake, this my evening sacrifice of prayer and

praise, tho' in great weakness, yet in the uprightness of my heart I offer unto thy Majesty in his name, in whom thou art well pleased, my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for Monday Morning.

O most gracious God, my only happiness for ever. I see my pardon hereafter depends on my choice here; but my choice, O Lord, is on thee, therefore do thou guide me with thy grace, that I may withdraw my affections from all vanities here below, and fix them upon Heaven and heavenly things; teach me what is acceptable in thy sight, that I may know my end, and wisely chuse my way, and order all my actions to thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer for Monday Night.

O Lord our heavenly Father who art present to all thou hast made, watch to improve us in the ways of thy commandments; check our inclinations to folly; encourage our pursuit after God, keep us under thy protection from all danger; and that we act every real good we faithfully ask, and use our best endeavour to request of thee we may attain the same, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for Tuesday Morning.

Lord, I beseech thee, grant me thy holy spirit, that I may withstand all Temptations which utterly confound the peace of my Soul: Lord, let thy Grace, which is sufficient for me, sanctify me against the wiles of the devil or man, for thy Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Tuesday Night.

Almighty God, I pray thee give thine angels charge over me, to keep me in thy ways, that no evil happen to me, nor plague come nigh my dwelling; grant me moderate refreshing sleep, such as may fit me for the duty of the day following. O make me mindful of my latter end, that I may then die in the Lord, and my soul rest in hope, thro' the mediation of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for Wednesday Morning.

Lord, what am I but a friend of this evil world, and an enemy to thee; I am a child of wrath, and a son of darkness; let not sin's mountains oppress me, nor the world's vanities check me, in order that I may never like an eagle fly to the carcass, but be able to cry for help to thee, who art the bright and morning star, who art wont to spread the beams of comfort to the needy in extremity. Amen.

A Prayer for Wednesday Night.

O most merciful and gracious Lord God, teach me so to govern and end my life, that I may sleep in peace with thee, hide me under thy wings that I may rest quietly, void of all fear, spiritual meekness, danger and despair; comfort me in all afflictions, by sanctifying them to me, that whatever is laid upon me as a fatherly correction, I may patiently bear it as a dutiful child, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Thursday Morning.

O Lord God, who by thy Almighty power didst drink water out of a rock, O Lord smite the stony rock

of my heart, and make the water of unfeigned repentance gush out. O give me that godly sorrow that may work repentance never to be repented of. Help me, O Lord, to carry all to my grave, sorrow of contrition, humiliation, and unfeigned repentance, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Thursday Night.

Almighty God, who hatest nothing thou hast made, nor wouldest the death of a sinner, but rather that he repent and be saved. Though the tree be barren, let not the decree be to cut it down, but spare me good Lord, spare me whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood, and be not angry with me for ever; though I have kindled a fire in thine anger, let it not burn to my utter destruction. Thou art a God of mercy and compassion, pardoning iniquity, transgression and sin. O pass by all my transgressions and receive me graciously. Enter not into judgment with me; neither say thou hast no pleasure in me, but Lord preserve me from sin for the time to come; for without thy grace preventing me, I cannot but sin, whose wages is death, but thy gift, O God, is eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer for Friday Morning.

Most holy eternal God, who see'st all my desires and continual groanings are not hid from thee; thou knowest how early I am of the sinful travel of this life, how earnestly I long to be with thee. O pardon all my sins, and put an end to all miseries. O come, Lord Jesus, come quickly, O wipe away all tears from mine eyes, bring me to that blessed rest of thine, which shall never end for thy Son's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Friday Night.

Great and glorious God, who art the only keeper of thy people Israel, that neither slumbers nor sleeps; the darkness covers the earth, receive my body and soul into custody, and be pleased in mercy to watch over me; fit and prepare me always for my latter end, before I go hence and be no more seen; grant this, O Lord, on account of our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

A Prayer for Saturday Morning.

Eternal and glorious God, father of all mercies, fountain and spring of all perfect happiness, I thy most unworthy creature, by reason of great and innumerable transgressions, yet invited by thy effectual goodness and commandments, do with all reverence and humble contrition approach thy throne of grace, begging of thee to remove my sins as far as the East is from the West; to remember them no more, lest thou smite me in thy jealousy, and consume me in thy wrath, which by my manifold sin and Wickedness I may most justly have deserved to feel. Lord let my repentance be speedy, and perfect bring the fruit of an holy conversation; give me a faith that shall never cease, a confidence in thee that shall never be discomposed, patience that shall never faint, and a noble courage to confess thy holy name, that in all changes and accidents I may be thy servant, that thou mayest take delight in pardoning me; sanctify and save me that I may rejoice in the mercies of God, in the day of repentance, at the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; in whose Name I conclude this my imperfect prayer, saying,

Our father, &c.

O most glorious Lord God, deliver me from the stormy sea of business, and the dead water of a slothful life; thy holy day is now approaching, prepare me for the sanctifying of the same, that I may not spend it on my own lusts and pleasures, but to thy service and glory, that I may seek in my heart the beginning of thy eternal sabbath, which is unspeakable and full of glory; prepare me, O God, against my last hour, and protect me this night from all evil. Amen.

An Historical Collection of God's Judgments.

A Woman of Derbyshire having cozen'd a boy of some money, was charged with it, but she denied it, praying to God the earth might open and swallow her up alive, if she had it; whereat the earth opened, and she sunk into it nine feet, with the money in her pocket.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Anne Avery, widow, forswore herself for a little money, which she should have paid for six pounds of flax, at a shop in Wine-street; upon which she was surprized by the justice of God, and fell down speechless, casting out of her mouth what nature had ordained to pass another way, in which agony she di d.

A gentleman in Berkshire of a great estate, who was an open scoffer and contemner of all religion, and a perfect atheist, so that I have heard it credibly reported, that being a witness to the baptism of a child he would have it named Belzebub. He was likewise given to all manner of debauchery, and so used to swearing, that he could scarce speak without an oath. This man kept in this damnable course of life till divine vengeance found him out: For going a hunting with his companions, as they were discoursing of idle stories, God

struck him with sudden death ; for falling on the crupper of the horse he was taken off dead, his tongue hanging out of his mouth most fearfully, and he became a terrible example of God's judgment against the atheist.

GRACE before Meat.

Good Lord bless us, and these thy good creatures to our use which we are about to receive of thy bounteous liberality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE after Meat.

We thank thee O Lord, for all the benefits of this time and of our whole lives ; make us thankful for all thy mercies now and evermore. Amen.

F I N I S.

